

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-06-6 to S-06-13

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

In response to a previous inquiry, Dean Grant announced that it was permissible to use laptops at Faculty of Science meetings.

Dean Grant asked the two new graduate student representatives to Faculty of Science meetings to stand. They were:

Danielle Fraser, Ph.D. Physics
Sarah Wilson, M.Sc. Biology

Another Faculty graduate student representative and a postdoctoral representative would be chosen in the near future, as well as an Academic Committee graduate student representative.

Dean Grant announced that for the SUS representatives:

Guillaume Couture (Physiology - U3)
Erika Leung (Physiology - U2)

would be replacing

Roberto Cipriani (Physiology - U2)
Stephanie Rolin (Math/Physiology - U3)

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Science

Science. Upon Science's approval, the Faculty of Arts would then approve the program for the B.A. degree.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baker, that the ad hoc Honours Program in Computer Science be approved for the B.A. student.

The motion carried.

iii. Ad hoc Major Program in Neuroscience

AC-06-4

205.2

Associate Dean Hendren explained that a Major in Neuroscience had passed all McGill's approval levels, but was awaiting approval from the Québec government. Until such approval was obtained, students were following the Major in Neuroscience as an ad hoc program.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the ad hoc Major Program in Neuroscience be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) Mathematics & Statistics

- Major Concentration in Mathematics for Management Students
- Major Concentration in Statistics for Management Students

AC-06-10

AC-06-11

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ng, that the above programs be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

- Mathematics & Statistics

- Minor in Mathematics
- Minor in Statistics

AC-06-8

AC-06-9

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Retirement:

- Major in Mathematics for Management Students

AC-06-12

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the program be retired.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

(1) Pharmacology & Therapeutics

PHAR 558 Pharmacology Research Topics
3 credits

AC-06-5

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.**(2) Biology/Natural Resource Sciences**

BIOL 350 (Revision)/ENTO 350(New)
 Insect Biology and Control **AC-06-13A/AC-06-13B**
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above be approved.

The motion carried.

Biology
 BIOL 590 Linking commun/ecosyst ecology **AC-06-14**
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Ms. McGruthers, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.**SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

- None

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-06-1**

Associate Dean Hendren read through the Report on Minor Course Changes.

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

- None

SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)**(1) K Grade Extensions for Research Courses**

205.3 Associate Dean Hendren explained that some professors had been giving K grades for one-semester research courses, with the students then conducting research on the same topic for a second semester. A grade would then be given for each of the supposedly separate one-semester research courses. This was an inappropriate use of K grades.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ng, that it be a Faculty policy that K grades not be used as a means of extending research courses beyond their original time frame.

The motion was unanimously approved.

(2) Faculty Standard Calculators

205.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that a number of professors wished to have a standard list of calculators that could be used for exams, in order to maintain control over the

capabilities of calculators. She said that it had not yet been determined whether the calculators would be provided to students during exams or whether students would themselves purchase the calculators.

205.5 In response to a member, Associate Dean Hendren agreed that it would be preferable for Science's list to overlap with that of Engineering, and that some of these calculators should be available in the library for students to practice.

205.6 Dean Grant said that the list should be available for the following year.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the Faculty of Science adopt a standard list of calculators.

The motion carried.

SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)

- **The Delivery and Evaluation Mechanisms of Undergraduate Science CoursesAC-06-17**

205.7 Associate Dean Hendren said that the various points listed in Document AC-06-17 would be used

- 206.1** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole with Associate Dean Burns as Chair. Associate Dean Burns said that currently in the Faculty of Science there was a movement to attempt to enrich the experience of graduate education. He said that graduate education involved a number of different components, including the research itself as well as a social experience; students learn a great deal in graduate school, some of which is formalized and some of which is not.
- 206.2** Associate Dean Burns said that among recent initiatives relevant to graduate education were the Committee of the Whole discussion concerning intellectual property at the September 12, 2006 Faculty meeting, the institution of courses in scientific writing for graduate students, and informal symposia which provided ideas on the presentation of research.
- 206.3** Associate Dean Burns asked members for ideas on ways to enrich graduate education.
- 206.4** Among the many ideas were:
- 1 - providing means by which graduate students could be taught to teach
 - 2 - the introduction of symposia where graduate students could present their research for the benefit of members of other units, including graduate students
 - 3 - providing options for graduate students to learn about the business world and about making presentations
 - 4 - teaching graduate students about applying for grants, publishing results, and other practical aspects concerning research
 - 5 - providing information to students about McGill's infrastructure, especially scientific equipment that is available
 - 6 - the possibility of holding workshops to teach various skill sets
 - 7 - setting up a science journal club to discuss current issues
 - 8 - that professors encourage students in their laboratories to attend seminars, especially by setting the example themselves
 - 9 - the introduction of informal departmental seminars given weekly by students and professors
 - 10 - the partial supervision of undergraduate research by graduate students, which could provide the potential for graduate student-undergraduate student synergy
- 206.5** Associate Dean Burns thanked members for their excellent suggestions.
- 206.6** The Committee of the Whole ended, and Dean Grant resumed as Chair.

(7) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/>.

- Prof. D. Ryan: Senate Meeting of September 20, 2006

Principal's remarks

Following a minute of silence in recognition of the recent events at Dawson College, the Principal outlined McGill's involvement and the support provided during the crisis. She also indicated that while McGill's crisis response plans were in good shape, they were to be reevaluated in light of these events, with mechanisms for clear and accurate dissemination of information to outside parties (*i.e.* students' parents) to be developed as a priority.

The second issue raised during the Principal's remarks concerned funding. The Quebec government has declared new money, but it is a hedge against the Federal government

providing more funding so some of it could be clawed back at a later date. She observed that education had been slipping as a priority for many years. Back in the 1960's as much as 60% of provincial budgets went on education, now the priority has shifted to health care. She neglected to note that in both cases, the spending is directed at the same people and that much of the shift reflects demographics.

Awarding of degrees

During the presentation of the report by the senate steering committee, the question of who exactly awards degrees at McGill arose. The wording of the report suggested that the steering committee did it, however it is supposed to be the job of the senate, even though the formal work never actually passes through the senate. The steering committee does the job "on behalf of senate" but they have been doing it for so long that they appear to have forgotten. Wording was fixed.

Questions

The effects of the "Summer Fridays Memo" continued to play out as a commitment to avoid another such ill-timed attempt to change operating procedures in midsummer was sought.

McGill intends to buy back all summer Friday